WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

U,S. Grant for Development of Agriculture

*363. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has recently given grants to the extent of Rs. 63 lakhs to Indian Scientists who work with American counterparts from U.S.D.A. and U.S. Agricultural Universities and the Centre for International Maize and Wheat Improvement;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that the Ministry are not taking the assistance from the U. S. Department of Agriculture to develop Agriculture and Horticulture in Punjab to help the farmers of Punjab rather than depending upon a Soft drink company (Pepsi Cola) to develop our agriculture; and

(c) how many Research establishments are there in Punjab to develop agriculture and horticulture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the grant agreements are strictly bilateral between the Indian Institutions and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and do not include any funds for the Centre for International Maize and Wheat Improvement.

(b) The imputation that the Ministry is "depending upon a Soft Drink Company (Pepsi Cola) to develop our agriculture" is not correct and is at variance with the factual position. The Ministry is taking assistance from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop Agriculture and Horticulture in Punjab, as is evident from the fact that seven out of a total of 75 Research Projects in India funded by the USDA are in operation in Punjab.

(c) There are 21 Regional Research Stations/Centres/Institutes in Operation in the Punjab State to develop agriculture and horticulture.

हीरा कुन्ड बांध के संबंध में उड़ीसा सुदूर संवेदी अनुप्रयोग केन्द्र (उड़ीसा रिमोट सेंसिंग एप्लीकेशन सेन्टर) की रिपोर्ट

*365. श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी :
श्री रशीद मसूद :

क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को उड़ीसा सुदूर संवेदी अनुप्रयोग केन्द्र द्वारा हीराकुंड बांध के बारे में किये गये अध्ययन से संबंधित हाल ही की रिपोर्ट की जानकारी है ,

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस रिपोर्ट का अध्ययन किया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या प्रभावी कदम उठाये गये हैं ?

जल संसाधन मंत्री (श्री बी. शंकरानन्द) : (क) और (ख) जी, हां ।

(ग) गाद भरने की दर को कम करने के उद्देश्य से जलग्रहण क्षेत्र में मृदा संरक्षण संबंधी उपाय आरम्भ किए गये हैं ।

Introduction of Crop Insurance Scheme

*366. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) the States|Union Territories which have not yet introduced the Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) the estimated damage that the farmers have suffered in each of these States|Union Territories during the

period 1984—87 due to their crops having not been insured;

(c) what advice has been given to these States; and

(d) whether there is any demand that cotton, jute, barley and gram be also covered by the Scheme; if so, what has been Governments response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) The States|U.Ts. which have not yet introduced the Crop Insurance Scheme are Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Sikkim, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Chandigarh. Rajasthan had participated in the scheme in Rabi 1985-86 and Kharif 1986 seasons but withdrew from the scheme thereafter.

(b) It is not possible to estimate the loss that the farmers have suffer in each of these States and Union Territories by way of non-receipt of insurance claims during the period 1984—87 because their crops were not insured..

(c) States and Union Territories are advised from time to time to implement the scheme.

(d) Gram is already covered under the Scheme. Due to heavy losses it has been decided to acquire more experience in implementing the scheme before extending the coverage to other crops. There is also no demand to cover jute and barley. States have been advised to frame their own schemes for extending insurance coverage to cotton out of their own budgetary resources. The State Governments can obtain reinsurance cover from the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) the terms and conditions of which could be finalised between the Government of India and the State Government.

वनस्पति के मूल्य

*367. **श्री रशीद मसूद :**
श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी :

क्या खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गत छः महीनों से वनस्पति के मूल्यों में वृद्धि होती रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो जनवरी, 1987 से जुलाई, 1987 के बीच वनस्पति के मूल्यों में कितनी वृद्धि हुई है ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि सरकार ने वनस्पति के निर्माताओं को समय-समय पर उनकी आवश्यकतानुसार आयातित खाद्य तेल की आपूर्ति की है ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में मूल्य के क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ङ) क्या सरकार वनस्पति का अधिकतम मूल्य घोषित करने का विचार रखती है ?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री (श्री एच० के० एल० भगत) : (क) और (ख) जुलाई, 1987 को समाप्त पिछले छः महीनों में वनस्पति के थोक मूल्य सूचकांक में 5% की वृद्धि हुई है ।

(ग) वनस्पति उद्योग को आयातित खाद्य तेल का आवंटन जनवरी, 1987 में उनकी आवश्यकता के 10% से लेकर जुलाई, 1987 में 10% तक भिन्न-भिन्न मात्रा में किया गया है ।

(घ) जैसाकि वनस्पति उद्योग ने सूचित किया है, मूल्यों के बढ़ने का मुख्य कारण निवेशों की लागत में हुई वृद्धि है, जिसमें देशीय खाद्य तेलों की लागत भी शामिल है ।

(ङ) इस मामले पर आगे और विचार किया जा रहा है ।

Contaminated Water Supply in Delhi

*368. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: